

LAURA BELLOWS

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QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

- Ten years of experience conducting research in collaboration with social policy agencies.
- Trained in demographic and causal inference methods.
- Published on a variety of social policy topics, including K-12 education policy, early education policy, immigration policy, and social welfare programs.
- Experience using administrative and survey data sources, often in combination.
- Expertise in data visualization.
- Experience with multiple types of analysis software, including Stata, R, SAS, SQL, and ArcGIS.

RECENT EXPERIENCE

RAND Corporation, Washington, D.C.

August 2022 – November 2025

Full Policy Researcher; Associate Policy Researcher

- Authored multiple successful research proposals on refugee policy: to examine refugee eligibility for and participation in social safety net programs and to use machine learning to better identify refugees in public survey data.
- Led study design and writing of reports, as well as analysis for the Annual Survey of Refugees, for projects examining refugee eligibility for and participation in public benefit programs.
- Wrangled data and conducted analyses in SQL, SAS, R, and Stata using the large-scale administrative data collected by the Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS) from Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR). Performed data quality checks and other technical assistance for OHSS.
- Conducted analyses in Stata using multiple waves of RAND's American Instructional Resources Survey and co-authored reports on science of reading practices and teachers' use of instructional materials.
- Wrangled data and conducted descriptive analyses using administrative and survey data for multiple additional projects, including projects on military child care and U.S. immigration policy.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

July 2019 – August 2022

Institute for Education Sciences (IES) Postdoctoral Fellow

- Constructed dataset linking all Louisiana early care and education (ECE) teachers over nine semesters.
- Using constructed dataset, published multiple journal articles examining turnover for Louisiana ECE teachers, including two that were cited in the *March 2023 Economic Report of the President*.
- Worked with Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) officials to obtain workforce database and wrangle raw data. Using cleaned data, led study examining which ECE teachers had begun a newly required early childhood ancillary certificate (ECAC) and their progress through the program.

Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, Austin, TX

August 2011 – August 2014

Research Associate

- Performed technical quality assistance using SQL on newly constructed relational database for Texas Home Visiting evaluation data and completed mandatory federal data reporting.
- Collected qualitative data through interviews, surveys, and focus groups.
- Analyzed and interpreted data using statistical software, including Stata, SAS, and ArcGIS.
- Served as project lead for evaluation of the Child Support for College program.
- Co-authored evaluation reports to state agencies, including the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and the Texas Office of the Attorney General.

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ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor, University of Virginia , Charlottesville, VA	September 2025 – December 2025
Teaching Assistant, Duke University , Durham, NC	September 2017 – May 2018
Graduate Research Assistant, Duke University , Durham, NC	September 2015 – December 2016
Policy Analysis Intern, Skillpoint Alliance , Austin, TX	May 2011 – August 2011
Economic Opportunity Intern, Center for Public Policy Priorities , Austin, TX	May 2010 – August 2010
Legislative Aide, Office of State Representative Dora Olivo , Austin, TX	February 2009 – July 2009
Field Coordinator, Arkansas Families First , Little Rock, AR	August 2008 – November 2008
4 th Grade Teacher, Eleanor Tinsley Elementary School , Houston, TX	August 2006 – May 2008

EDUCATION

Duke University , Durham, NC	Graduation: September 2019
PhD in Public Policy	

Indiana University , Bloomington, IN	Graduation: May 2011
Master's of Public Affairs	

Rice University , Houston, TX	Graduation: May 2006
Bachelor of Arts <i>cum laude</i> in History and English	

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles:

Bellows, Laura, Chris Doss, and Samuel Mann (2025). "The Prevalence of LGBTQ+ Teachers in the U.S." *Educational Researcher*. doi: 10.3102/0013189X251347232

Bellows, Laura, Anna Shapiro, Daphna Bassok, and Anna J. Markowitz (2024). "Do Early Educators Improve Over Time? New Findings from the Universe of New Child Care, Head Start, and Pre-K Teachers in Louisiana." *AERA Open* 11.

Gassman-Pines, Anna, **Laura Bellows**, William E. Copeland, Rick H. Hoyle, and Candice L. Odgers (2023). "Day-to-Day Variation in Adolescent Food Insecurity." *Children and Youth Services Review*, 149.

Bellows, Laura, Daphna Bassok, and Anna J. Markowitz (2022). "Teacher Turnover in Early Childhood Education: Longitudinal Evidence from the Universe of Publicly-Funded Programs in Louisiana." *Educational Researcher*, 51(9), 565-574.

Doromal, Justin, Daphna Bassok, **Laura Bellows**, and Anna J. Markowitz (2022) "Hard-to-Staff Centers: Exploring Center-Level Variation in the Persistence of Child Care Teacher Turnover." *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 61(4), 170-178.

Bellows, Laura (2021) "The Effect of Immigration Enforcement on School Engagement: Evidence from 287(g) Programs in North Carolina." *AERA Open*, 7(1), 1-20.

Tome, Romina, Marcos A. Rangel, Christina Gibson-Davis, and **Laura Bellows** (2021) "Heightened Immigration Enforcement Impacts U.S. Citizens' Birth Outcomes: Evidence from Early ICE Interventions in North Carolina." *PLOS ONE*, 16(2).

Bassok, Daphna, Anna J. Markowitz, **Laura Bellows**, and Katharine Sadowski (2021) "New Evidence on Teacher Turnover in Early Childhood." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 43(1), 172-180.

Bellows, Laura (2019) "Immigration Enforcement and Student Achievement in the Wake of Secure

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Communities.” *AERA Open*, 5(4), 1-20.

Gassman-Pines, Anna and **Laura Bellows** (2018) “Food Instability and Academic Achievement: A Quasi-Experiment Using SNAP Benefit Timing.” *American Educational Research Journal*, 55(5), 897-927.

von Hippel, Paul and **Laura Bellows** (2018) “How Much Does Teacher Quality Vary Across Teacher Preparation Programs? Reanalyzing Estimates from 6 States.” *Economics of Education Review*, 64, 298-312.

von Hippel, Paul, **Laura Bellows**, Cynthia Osborne, Jane Lincove, and Nicholas Mills (2016) “Teacher Quality Differences Between Teacher Preparation Programs: How Big? How Reliable? Which Programs Are Different?” *Economics of Education Review*, 53, 31-45.

Lincove, Jane, Cynthia Osborne, Nicholas Mills, and **Laura Bellows** (2015). “Teacher Preparation for Profit or Prestige: Analysis of a Diverse Market for Teacher Preparation.” *Journal of Teacher Education* 66(5), 415-434.

Selected Reports:

Doan, Sy, Ashley Woo, Anna Shapiro, **Laura Bellows**, and Emma B. Kassan (2025). *Teachers' Use of Instructional Materials from 2019-2024: Trends from the American Instructional Resources Survey*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, RR-A-134-30.

Anna Shapiro and **Laura Bellows** (2025). *Translating Reading Science into Practice—Foundational Reading Instruction in Public Elementary Schools: Findings from the Spring 2024 American Instructional Resources Survey*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, RR-A134-28.

Treyger, Elina, Maya Buenaventura, Ian Mitch, **Laura Bellows**, and John S. Hollywood (2025). *Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Children at Ports of Entry*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, RR-A2424-1.

Bordeaux, John, Joshua Simulcik, **Laura Bellows**, Raymond Kuo, John S. Hollywood, Michelle D. Ziegler, Ryan Consaul, David Stebbins, Erin N. Leidy, Karishma R. Mehta, Jo Caulkins, and Nancy Huerta (2024). *Advancing Transparency in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Defining the Office of Homeland Security Statistics*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, RR-A2444-1.

Bellows, Laura, Marwa AlFakhri and Jamie Ryan (2024). *Safety Net Participation of Refugee Communities: Analytic Memo*. Alexandria, VA: National Science Foundation.

AlFakhri, Marwa, **Laura Bellows**, and Jamie Ryan (2024). *Safety Net Participation of Refugee Communities: Research Plan*. Alexandria, VA: National Science Foundation.

Bellows, Laura, Kate Miller-Bains, and Daphna Bassok (2022). *Professionalizing the Child Care Workforce: Understanding the Low Rates of Credential Completion among Early Educators*. Study of Early Education in Louisiana.

Bassok, Daphna, Walter Herring, Anna J. Markowitz, and **Laura Bellows** (2021). *Professionalizing the Child Care Workforce through Credentialing: Lessons from Louisiana’s Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate*. Study of Early Education in Louisiana.

Ananat, Elizabeth O., **Laura Bellows**, and Anna Gassman-Pines (2020). *Working Families’ Experiences of the Enduring COVID Crisis: Snapshot from Midsummer*. Center for Child & Family Policy, Duke University.

Osborne, Cynthia, Daniel Dillon, and **Laura Bellows** (2013). *Seeding the College Dream: Asset-Building among the Child Support Population*. Prepared for the Texas Office of the Attorney General.